

Appln. No. 10/688,620

Amendment dated February 22, 2005

Reply to Office Action mailed September 22, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

- 1           1. (Currently Amended) A telescopic flag pole assembly  
2 comprising:  
3           a bottom segment, at least one intermediate segment, and a top  
4 segment, each of said segments comprising a rigid elongate  
5 cylindrical tube of a size to fit telescopically within the next  
6 adjacent lower tube;  
7           a plurality of sleeve assemblies to facilitate telescopic  
8 movement of the adjacent tubes, each one of said sleeve assemblies  
9 being positioned between an associated pairing of a relatively lower  
10 segment and a relatively higher segment; and  
11           a plurality of biasing means, each one of said biasing means  
12 urging an associate one of said segments toward an extended  
13 position;  
14           wherein each one of said plurality of sleeve assemblies further  
15 comprises:  
16                 an upper sleeve member positionable to abut a top edge  
17 of said relatively lower one of said segments; and  
18                 a lower sleeve member positionable to abut a lower edge  
19 of said relatively higher one of said segments;  
20                 wherein said upper sleeve member and said lower sleeve  
21 member are configured to selectively engage each other such  
22 that said lower sleeve member is capable of being maintained  
23 in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member, a  
24 locking slot being defined on said upper sleeve member at  
25 position in a lower portion of a perimeter wall, a locking tab

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26 being defined on said lower sleeve member and extending from  
27 an upper portion of a perimeter wall, said lower sleeve  
28 member having a central longitudinal axis, a reference plane  
29 extending perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis;  
30 wherein said locking slot is defined by a slot edge of  
31 said perimeter wall, said slot edge extending at an inclined  
32 angle with respect to said reference plane, and wherein said  
33 locking tab is defined by a tab edge of said perimeter wall,  
34 said tab edge extending at said inclined angle with respect to  
35 said reference plane such that rotating said upper sleeve  
36 member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first  
37 direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and  
38 rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower  
39 sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking  
40 tab from said locking slot.

2. (Cancelled)

1 3. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1,  
2 wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises a lower stop  
3 portion, said lower stop portion engaging a bottom portion of an  
4 associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively  
5 higher segment.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1,  
2 wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises ~~a~~ an upper stop  
3 portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top portion of an  
4 associated one of said biasing means associated with said relatively  
5 lower segment.

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1           5. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1,  
2    wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises a ledge portion  
3    for engaging a bottom edge of said relatively higher segment.

1           6. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[2]] 1,  
2    wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises:  
3           a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a  
4    bottom portion of an associated one of said biasing means  
5    associated with said relatively higher segment;  
6           a an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top  
7    portion of an associated one of said biasing means associated with  
8    said relatively lower segment; and  
9           a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said relatively  
10   higher segment.

1           7. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim [[[2]]] 1,  
2    wherein said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip portion,  
3    said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively lower  
4    segment.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

1           10. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said biasing  
2    means is a spring member.

1           11. (Original) The assembly of claim 10, wherein said spring  
2    member has a compressed overall length of approximately 9 inches  
3    and a fully extended overall length of approximately 90 inches.

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1           12. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, further comprising a  
2 stop ring member positionable in a bottom portion of said bottom  
3 segment, said stop ring engaging a bottom portion of a first one of  
4 said plurality of biasing means.

13. (Cancelled)

1           14. (Currently Amended) A telescopic flag pole assembly  
2 comprising:  
3           a bottom segment, at least one intermediate segment, and a top  
4 segment, each of said segments comprising a rigid elongate  
5 cylindrical tube of a size to fit telescopically within the next  
6 adjacent lower tube;  
7           a plurality of sleeve assemblies to facilitate telescopic  
8 movement of the adjacent tubes, each one of said sleeve assemblies  
9 being positioned between an associated pairing of a relatively lower  
10 segment and a relatively higher segment;  
11           a plurality of biasing means, each one of said biasing means  
12 urging an associate one of said segments toward an extended  
13 position;  
14           wherein each one of said plurality of sleeve assemblies further  
15 comprises:  
16                 an upper sleeve member positionable to abut a top edge  
17 of said relatively lower one of said segments;  
18                 a lower sleeve member positionable to abut a lower edge  
19 of said relatively higher one of said segments;  
20                 wherein said upper sleeve member and said lower sleeve  
21 member are configured to selectively engage each other such  
22 that said lower sleeve member is capable of being maintained  
23 in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member, a  
24 locking slot being defined on said upper sleeve member at

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25 position in a lower portion of a perimeter wall, a locking tab  
26 being defined on said lower sleeve member and extending from  
27 an upper portion of a perimeter wall, said lower sleeve  
28 member having a central longitudinal axis, a reference plane  
29 extending perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis;

30 wherein said locking slot is defined by a slot edge of  
31 said perimeter wall, said slot edge extending at an inclined  
32 angle with respect to said reference plane, and wherein said  
33 locking tab is defined by a tab edge of said perimeter wall,  
34 said tab edge extending at said inclined angle with respect to  
35 said reference plane such that rotating said upper sleeve  
36 member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first  
37 direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and  
38 rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower  
39 sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking  
40 tab from said locking slot;

41 said lower sleeve member further comprises:

42 a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a  
43 bottom portion of an associated one of said biasing means  
44 associated with said relatively higher segment;

45 & an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging  
46 a top portion of an associated one of said biasing means  
47 associated with said relatively lower segment;

48 a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said  
49 relatively higher segment;

50 said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip  
51 portion, said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively  
52 lower segment;

53 ~~said upper sleeve member selectively engages said lower~~  
54 ~~sleeve member whereby said lower sleeve member is~~

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55 ~~maintained in a static position relative to said upper sleeve~~  
56 ~~member;~~  
57 ~~said upper sleeve member having a locking slot portion~~  
58 ~~positioned in a lower portion of a perimeter wall;~~  
59 ~~said lower sleeve member having a locking tab portion~~  
60 ~~extending from an upper portion of a perimeter wall;~~  
61 ~~said locking tab portion slideably engaging said locking~~  
62 ~~slot portion whereby rotating said upper sleeve member with~~  
63 ~~respect to said lower sleeve member in a first direction~~  
64 ~~engages said locking tab into said locking slot and rotating~~  
65 ~~said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower sleeve~~  
66 ~~member in a second direction disengages said locking tab~~  
67 ~~from said locking slot;~~  
68 each of said plurality of biasing means iscomprising a spring  
69 member;  
70 a stop ring member positionable in a bottom portion of said  
71 bottom segment, said stop ring engaging a bottom portion of a first  
72 one of said plurality of biasing means; ~~and~~  
73 ~~a plurality of retaining means, each one of said plurality of~~  
74 ~~retaining means being associated with one of said segments, each~~  
75 ~~one of said retaining means selectively securing said segment in a~~  
76 ~~non-extended position.~~

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1           15. (Currently Amended) A telescopic flag pole assembly  
2    comprising:  
3           a bottom segment, and a top segment, each of said segments  
4    comprising a rigid elongate cylindrical tube, said top segment being  
5    of a size to fit telescopically within said bottom segment;  
6           a sleeve assembly to facilitate telescopic movement of said  
7    tubes, said sleeve assembly being positioned between said bottom  
8    segment and said top segment;  
9           a biasing means urging said top ~~segments~~ segment toward an  
10   extended position;  
11          said sleeve assembly further comprises:  
12                  an upper sleeve member positionable to abut a top edge  
13                  of said bottom segment; and  
14                  a lower sleeve member positionable to abut a lower edge  
15                  of said top segment;  
16                  wherein said upper sleeve member and said lower sleeve  
17                  member are configured to selectively engage each other such  
18                  that said lower sleeve member is capable of being maintained  
19                  in a static position relative to said upper sleeve member, a  
20                  locking slot being defined on said upper sleeve member at  
21                  position in a lower portion of a perimeter wall, a locking tab  
22                  being defined on said lower sleeve member and extending from  
23                  an upper portion of a perimeter wall, said lower sleeve  
24                  member having a central longitudinal axis, a reference plane  
25                  extending perpendicular to said central longitudinal axis;  
26                  wherein said locking slot is defined by a slot edge of  
27                  said perimeter wall, said slot edge extending at an inclined  
28                  angle with respect to said reference plane, and wherein said  
29                  locking tab is defined by a tab edge of said perimeter wall,  
30                  said tab edge extending at said inclined angle with respect to

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31        said reference plane such that rotating said upper sleeve  
32        member with respect to said lower sleeve member in a first  
33        direction engages said locking tab into said locking slot and  
34        rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to said lower  
35        sleeve member in a second direction disengages said locking  
36        tab from said locking slot.

1        16. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 15, wherein  
2        said lower sleeve member further comprises:  
3        a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a  
4        bottom portion of said biasing means;  
5        a an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top  
6        portion of said biasing means; and  
7        a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said top  
8        segment.

1        17. (Original) The assembly of claim 15, wherein said upper  
2        sleeve member further comprises a lip portion, said lip portion  
3        abutting a top edge of said relatively lower segment.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)



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1           20. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 15, further  
2 comprising:  
3           wherein said lower sleeve member further comprises:  
4           a lower stop portion, said lower stop portion engaging a  
5           bottom portion of said biasing means;  
6           a an upper stop portion, said upper stop portion engaging a top  
7 portion of said biasing means;  
8           a ledge portion for engaging a bottom edge of said top  
9           segment;  
10          wherein said upper sleeve member further comprises a lip  
11 portion, said lip portion abutting a top edge of said relatively lower  
12 segment;  
13          said upper sleeve member selectively engages said lower  
14 sleeve member whereby said lower sleeve member is maintained in a  
15 static position relative to said upper sleeve member;  
16          said upper sleeve member having a locking slot portion  
17 positioned in a lower portion of a perimeter wall;  
18          said lower sleeve member having a locking tab portion  
19 extending from an upper portion of a perimeter wall;  
20          said locking tab portion slideably engaging said locking slot  
21 portion whereby rotating said upper sleeve member with respect to  
22 said lower sleeve member in a first direction engages said locking  
23 tab into said locking slot and rotating said upper sleeve member  
24 with respect to said lower sleeve member in a second direction  
25 disengages said locking tab from said locking slot; and  
26          a stop ring member positionable in a bottom portion of said  
27 bottom segment, said stop ring engaging a bottom portion of said  
28 biasing means; ~~and~~  
29          ~~a retaining means for selectively securing said segment in a~~  
30 ~~non-extended position.~~

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1           21. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein said inclined  
2 angle is approximately 45 degrees with respect to said reference  
3 plane.

1           22. (New) The assembly of claim 14 wherein said inclined  
2 angle is approximately 45 degrees with respect to said reference  
3 plane.

1           23. (New) The assembly of claim 15 wherein said inclined  
2 angle is approximately 45 degrees with respect to said reference  
3 plane.

1           24. (New) The assembly of claim 1 wherein an uppermost  
2 edge of said locking tab defines a point that tapers wider toward a  
3 lowermost portion of said locking tab.

1           25. (New) The assembly of claim 14 wherein an uppermost  
2 edge of said locking tab defines a point that tapers wider toward a  
3 lowermost portion of said locking tab.

1           26. (New) The assembly of claim 15 wherein an uppermost  
2 edge of said locking tab defines a point that tapers wider toward a  
3 lowermost portion of said locking tab.